

ISLE OF WIGHT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
INCLUDING THE
REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTORS
FOR THE YEAR 1965

ISLE OF WIGHT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT


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THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the

HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

of the

ISLE OF WIGHT

County Hall,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.
Tel: Newport 2261.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Miss Brimacombe and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1965.

The Birth Rate rose from 13.0 to 14.1.

The Stillbirth Rate fell from 16.3 to 11.2.

The Death Rate fluctuated slightly from 14.8 to 14.9.

The Infantile Mortality Rate fell from 12.4 to 11.3.

Deaths from all forms of cancer totalled 61. (1963 - 54, 1964 - 55)

Deaths from cancer of the lung rose from 11 to 18 cases.

Coronary artery disease accounted for 59 deaths, a decrease of 6 cases on 1964.

No deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis, but one patient suffering from the disease died from another cause.

No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis were notified.

During the year two children died from measles with chest complications. Measles vaccination has proved successful in America and Australia; pilot schemes are under way in certain parts of England but so far the "all clear" has not yet been given for all local health authorities to act.

Brucella Abortus was found in six samples of milk. The position in respect of brucellosis will not improve to any marked extent in raw milk until a reserve of brucella-free animals has been built up for the replacement of infected herds. This is going forward but will take about five years to complete.

There is much doubt and difficulty in determining the amount of ill health due to the drinking of brucella infected milk or close contact with infected animals. It would be a step forward if brucella infection in humans was made notifiable.

In the meantime for maximum safety all milk should be pasteurised.

Water Supplies

The water supplies in the Rural District have been satisfactory in quality and quantity. The results of bacteriological examination of water supplies were :-

<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
80	6	4

It is probable that at least some of the unsatisfactory samples were occasioned by sampling errors since in all cases check samples taken a few days later were satisfactory.

The water is not liable to be plumbo-solvent and no contamination occurred.

There are a few properties in the District, possibly about twenty, which have not a main water supply.

Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention

It was not necessary to invoke the powers contained in Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year.

Acknowledgements

It is a pleasure to again thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, the Public Health Inspectors and all members of the Public Health Department for their continued help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Miss Brimacombe and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MILLS

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1965

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :-

John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS :-

C.V. Smith, M.R.S.H., M.A.R.D.C.S. (West Wight)

L.J. Lewis, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A. (East Wight)

CLERK :-

Miss R. Harding

TEMPORARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANT :-

G. Woodcock (commenced 18.10.65)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's figures)	...	...	18,790
Area (in acres)	...	...	58,127
Number of habitable dwellings end of 1965	...	...	7,725
Rateable Value, as at 1st April, 1965	...	...	£630,682
Sum represented by a penny rate (1964/65)	...	...	£2,493

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	14.1
Comparative factor	...	...	1.31
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	18.5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths)	...	...	11.2
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	14.9
Comparative factor	...	...	0.73
Comparative Death Rate	...	...	10.9
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 (live and stillbirths)	...	...	-
Death rate of infants under one year of age :-			
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	11.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	12.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	-
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	61

BIRTHS

The total number of live births was 265 of which 241 were legitimate and 24 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 14.1 per 1,000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 18.0.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The Infant Mortality rate was 11.3 per 1,000 registered live births; the rate for England and Wales generally was 19.0.

DEATHS

The Total number of deaths was 280 which gives a death rate of 14.9 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population; the death rate for England and Wales being 11.5.

CAUSES OF DEATH

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Measles	...	...	...	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases			...	1	-
Cancer of stomach	...	...	...	5	3
Cancer of lung and bronchus		...	...	13	5
Cancer of breast	...	...	...	-	5
Cancer of uterus	...	...	...	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			...	16	12
Leukaemia, aleukaemia		...	...	-	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system			...	16	31
Coronary disease - angina		...	...	41	18
Other heart diseases		...	...	14	24
Other disease of circulatory system			...	3	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	12
Bronchitis	...	...	...	7	2
Other disease of respiratory system			...	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...		...	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea			...	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis		...	...	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate		...	...	2	-
Congenital malformations		...	...	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases			...	6	10
Motor vehicle accidents		4	-
All other accidents	1	2
Suicide	2	1

Total: all causes	140	140
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NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR, 1965

Age	Dysentery	Meningo- coccal Inf.	Food Poisoning	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Erysipelas	Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Under 1 year	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
1 and under 2 years	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
2 " " 3 "	-	-	-	-	4	19	-	-
3 " " 4 "	-	-	-	-	2	30	-	-
4 " " 5 "	1	-	-	-	3	29	-	-
5 " " 10 "	4	-	-	8	11	171	-	-
10 " " 15 "	-	-	-	2	3	23	-	-
15 " " 25 "	2	1	-	1	-	2	-	1
25 " " 35 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " 45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 " " 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
65 years and over	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total :	8	2	1	11	24	293	1	2

All other Notifiable Diseases ... NIL.

EAST WIGHT

WATER SUPPLIES

Public water supplies over the whole area are provided by the Isle of Wight Water Board, an Authority which is responsible for supplies to the whole Island. During the year no complaints were received by the Public Health Department of the Rural District Council.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences are provided at Bembridge, Brading, Niton and Godshell. All these conveniences are small, and there is no justification for employment of full-time attendants.

In the past they have been maintained by part-time attendants, but this has not proved satisfactory.

During the year a man was appointed by the Council for full-time service on this and certain other works.

The arrangement for the public to use conveniences at the Buddle Inn, Niton, continued to function without difficulty.

Work in connection with provision of additional public conveniences at Forelands, Bembridge, and Lane End, Bembridge, was put in hand.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Main sewerage systems are provided at Apse Heath, Brading, Bembridge, Blackgang, Chillerton, Godshell, Niton and Whitwell.

Disposal of sewage

Apse Heath: to small sewage purification works.

Bembridge: Since the new scheme came into operation in 1959 all sewage from the Village has discharged by way of the sea outfall at Ethel Point. The holder tank in the Lane End outfall has proved very satisfactory in operation, and no further complaints of sewage discharge on to the beach have been confirmed. Further extensions of the sewer have been laid by developers at:-

Stone Farm, Bembridge
Lane End Close, Bembridge
Hayes Estate, Bembridge

Disposal of sewage (continued)

- Bembridge: and will in due course be taken over by the Rural District Council. Excessive rainfall on one occasion in April caused the complete surcharging of the Bembridge sewers, the outfall being unable to deal with the abnormally high flow.
- Brading: Owing to considerable development in the Brading area, the S.D. Works in Wall Lane have been giving some trouble. These works serve the northern part of the Parish, and when they were reconstructed some eleven years ago it was realised that, owing to site limitations the works would not be capable of much additional loading.
- During 1965 it became obvious that this increased load was beyond the capacity of the present plant, and instructions were given to the Council's Consultants to prepare a scheme for the enlargement of the works. The new scheme for the southern part of the Parish comprises a system discharging to a Pumping Station at Morton, from where sewage is pumped to the Sandown/Shanklin sewage disposal plant.
- Blackgang: Sewage discharges into a tank at the head of the Chine from where it is pumped to a disposal works at some distance from the inhabited area.
- Chillerton: To settlement tanks and land irrigation system. This functions without trouble but cannot be considered as meeting the demands set by modern standards.
- Godshill: To sewage disposal works. This plant is approaching the stage when enlargement will have to be considered. Electricity has been brought to the site at Godshill and the petrol driven pump, after over 30 years service, has been replaced by an electric motor. The sludge drying beds have also been enlarged and reconstructed.
- Niton and Whitwell: To disposal works. This plant is approaching the stage when enlargement will have to be considered. During the year, the sludge drying beds were reconstructed and enlarged.

Small sewage disposal plants are provided for a number of the Housing Estates at :-

/Langbridge,

Disposal of sewage (continued)

Langbridge, Newchurch
Two Firs, "
The Bower, "
Main Road, "
West View, Chale
South View, Chale Green
Dovecotes, Merstone
Station Site, Merstone
Hazely Combe, Arreton
Pagham Place, Rookley
St. George's View, Rookley.

These small plants are desludged at intervals of 6 - 9 months and give rise to very little trouble, but it has been found necessary to give increased attention to these plants.

A system of drainage serving a few cottages in Highwood Lane, Rookley, discharges into a settlement tank and thence by means of an effluent drain into a watercourse.

Instructions were given to the Council's Consultants to prepare a scheme for sewerage of the Winford area.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse collection service continues to function in a satisfactory manner. The service covers the whole district. A weekly collection is given in the Parishes of Bembridge and Brading and a fortnightly collection in all other parts of the district.

<u>EAST WIGHT</u>		
No. of Vehicles	Mileage	Disposal
One S & D rear loader BEMBRIDGE and BRADING	4733	To Wall Lane Tip, Brading.
One 20 Y.C.S. & D. Pakamatic. S.ARRETON, NEWCHURCH, GODSHILL, NITON, CHALE AND GATCOMBE.	9246	To Bleakdown Tip, Godshill.

Bleakdown tip has continued to operate with one full-time attendant. This tip receives a very large amount of trade and other waste. A small Schmiedag tractor was purchased to assist levelling on the tip.

Litter Baskets

Requests for the provision of additional litter baskets still increase and during the holiday period dealing with litter is becoming a serious problem. In a spread-out rural area where there is only a fortnightly refuse collection, very considerable difficulty is experienced in giving the necessary attention to litter baskets.

Emptying of litter baskets is still carried out by local labour supplemented by some assistance from the Council's workmen and County Council roadmen.

The growing problem of litter is making heavy demands on these services, and the time is approaching when a special service of collection will be necessary during the summer season.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The Council do not own a cesspool emptier but hire a machine when required from Ryde, Sandown or Ventnor. A routine service is not in operation but pits are emptied upon application -

- (a) if they have not been emptied within the last 12 months
- (b) if they are overflowing or are likely to overflow in the near future.

As we have to depend on hiring from other Authorities there are times when we have no machine available for urgent work. Delays are, therefore, unavoidable and although they are kept to a minimum, there have been occasions when pits have been awaiting attention for several weeks. The total demands on the Rural District Council are not sufficient to justify the purchase of an emptying machine.

No. of cesspools emptied	(cost borne by rate charge)	- 395
" " "	" (applicant bearing cost)	- 60

HOSTELS

East Wight

W.H.A. Hostel, Whitwell. Mains water. Drainage to cesspool. Public refuse collection.

HOUSING

East Wight

Thirty-seven new dwellings were erected by the Council during the year in the East Wight.

HOUSING (continued)

Slum Clearance (East and West Wight)

No. of unfit houses demolished	...	1
No. of unfit houses closed	...	12
No. of families rehoused from these unfit houses		8

Improvement Grants

The Rural District Council continued their policy of making Improvement Grants and during the year 24 properties were improved under this scheme.

Assisted House Purchase and Loans to Carry Out Repairs (East and West Wight)

During 1965 loans were made in respect of the purchase, construction, repairs, improvements or alteration of 86 properties. The total amount paid in this respect was £149,030.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960 (East and West Wight)

One caravan licence was issued.

An appeal court upheld the conviction in the previous year, in respect of use of land as a caravan site without a licence.

The summer holiday season showed a continued increase on tented camping. There are two fairly large licensed sites available, but quite a number of smaller sites used within the exemptions under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Such sites can well cause considerable trouble, and the exemption clause of Section 269 leaves us without adequate control.

The policy of certain of the licensed caravan site operators to replace caravans by chalets of a more permanent nature resulted in a number of caravans being offered for sale at comparatively low prices. Quite a number of these vans have found their way into gardens of domestic premises where they are used for additional holiday accommodation. The exemptions in the Caravan Act make it very difficult to exercise effective control of vans so stationed.

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES FOR THE SALE OF ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered (East and West Wight) ... 137

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Two licences were issued during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT: Particulars as at 31st December, 1961

	<u>No. of premises registered during the year</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	18	62
Retail shops	27	128
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public; canteens	14	36
Fuel storage depots ...	-	-

Mr. G. Woodcock was appointed for duties under this Act.

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Houses inspected	31
Houses reinspected	28
Cowstables and Dairies	-
Food preparing premises	54
Meat and other foods inspection	138
Drains and sewers	275
Water supplies	5
Refuse collection	196
New buildings and alterations	753
Various	351

Total number of visits of inspection made: 1831

FACTORIES ACT: 1961

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1961
Part I and VIII administered by the District Council :-

Inspections: Part I of the Act.

For the purposes of provisions as to health (including
inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

/cont.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	45	19	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	35	42	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered on the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more cases.)

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>			
	<u>Found</u>		<u>Remedied</u>	
Want of cleanliness (Sect.1) ...	1	...	1	
Sanitary conveniences (Sect.7) ... unsuitable or defective	-	...	-	

Part VIII of the Act (Outwork)

Sections 110 and 111 NIL

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The amount of unsound food dealt with during the year was as follows:-

Tinned fruit: 25 lbs. Canned meat: 84 lbs.

WEST WIGHT

WATER SUPPLIES

The rainfall for the year was 36.87 inches and the average water consumption for the West Wight area was 630,000 gallons per day.

One hundred and thirteen samples of water supplies were examined for bacteriological analysis of which nine were classified as unsatisfactory.

The supply to Yarmouth was improved by the renewal and enlargement of the Wilmington Lane main approximately 4,200 yds. long. About 1 mile of mains were laid to serve new housing developments in the Rural District.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences are provided at Freshwater Bay, Freshwater (2), Totland, Totland Bay, Colwell and Alum Bay (by arrangement with the Needles Hotel). All the conveniences are well maintained by a full-time attendant.

Public conveniences (chemical disposal type) are provided at Compton Bay. These are maintained by a part-time attendant.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Main sewerage systems are provided at Freshwater, Totland, Colwell Bay, Yarmouth, Shorwell, Brighstone and Calbourne.

Disposal of sewage

<u>Freshwater:</u>	18" diameter sea outfall at Norton, extending 700 feet out from shore (including Monks area).
<u>Totland:</u>	12" diameter sewer sea outfall, extending 1,400 feet out from shore.
<u>Yarmouth:</u>	Sea outfall discharging 500 feet from shore near end of Yarmouth Pier.
<u>do.</u>	6" diameter sea outfall, taking the drainage of four dwellings at top of High Street.
<u>Shorwell:</u>	To sewage disposal works with purification by settlement tanks and aeration beds.
<u>Brighstone:</u>	ditto.

Disposal of Sewage (continued)

<u>Calbourne:</u>	To sewage disposal works with purification by settlement tanks and aeration beds.
<u>Bouldnor area:</u> (Shalfleet Parish)	ditto.
<u>Brook:</u> (former Estate sewer)	By settlement tank (anaerobic treatment)
<u>Newtown:</u> (Old Vicarage Estate)	To sewage disposal works with purification by settlement tanks and aeration beds.

Small Sewage Purification Plants.

There is a small sewage purification plant in Shalfleet Village taking the drainage of some 20 Council houses and private properties.

Small sewage purification plants are provided at Porchfield, Thorley and Newbridge Housing Estates, and there is a small sewage purification plant at Alum Bay dealing with the drainage of the public conveniences, the Needles Hotel and Tea Rooms.

A scheme for the serving of Newbridge Village is under active consideration.

The Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing a report on the modernisation of the system of sewage disposal in the parishes of Freshwater and Totland and the feasibility of linking the two systems to one point of discharge.

The Totland sewer sea outfall is over 70 years old and is becoming increasingly costly to maintain.

REFUSE COLLECTION

There is a weekly collection of refuse in all the Parishes of the West Wight. Refuse is deposited by controlled tipping on the land reclamation area on the East bank of the River Yar estuary at Yarmouth, the disused claypits between Copse Lane and Golden Hill Fort, and at Churchills Quarry, Shalfleet.

/cont...

REFUSE COLLECTION (continued)

No. of Vehicles	Estimated Refuse collected (cu. yds)	Mileage	Disposal of Refuse
<u>Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth</u> One S. & D. 25 cu.yd. Pakamatic refuse lorry	29,000	5,374	Yarmouth land reclamation area. Copse Lane, Freshwater.
<u>Agricultural Parishes</u> One S. & D. 20 cu.yd. Pakamatic refuse lorry	11,000	10,959	Churchills Quarry, Shalfleet.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

Premises are served by a cesspool emptying lorry on hire from Ryde Borough and Ventnor Urban District Council.

Total number of cesspools or septic
tanks cleansed ... 340

HOSTELS

West Wight

Weston Manor Hostel, Totland: Mains water supply. Main drainage.
Weekly collection of refuse.

HOUSING

West Wight

Forty-six new dwellings were erected by the Council during the year in West Wight.

Private houses erected in East and West Wight ... 158

Number of plans deposited and reported upon to the Council, East and West Wight ... 798

HOUSING (continued)

Slum Clearance:

- see East Wight Report -

Improvement Grants:

During the year 26 properties in the West Wight were improved under the Improvement Grant Scheme.

Assisted House Purchase and Loans to carry out repairs.

- see East Wight Report -

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Number of licensed caravan sites in West Wight ... 8

COAST PROTECTION ACT

Totland Bay - The scheme for protection of some 860 yards of coastline along the bay is now in progress. The scheme provides for drainage of the cliffs to minimise landslip and to protect the base of the cliffs from erosion by the sea by the construction of a concrete sea-wall and groynes. Bad weather and heavy rainfall towards the end of the year has impeded the work and caused a major cliff subsidence at Widdick Chine, which will require additional drainage works to stabilise the cliff.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT: Particulars as at 31st December, 1965

	<u>No. of premises registered during the year</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	20	79
Retail shops	67	231
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public; canteens ...	10	62
Fuel storage depots ...	1	4

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Houses inspected	52
Houses re-inspected	50
Cowstables and Dairies	5
Food preparing premises	40
Meat and other foods inspection	32
Drains and sewers	570
Water supplies	8
Refuse collection	360
New buildings and alterations	820
Various	440

Total number of visits of inspection made:- 2377

FACTORIES ACT: 1961

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1961 Part I and VIII administered by the District Council :-

Inspections: Part I of the Act.

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupier prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	63	7	2	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	25	1	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

(if defects are discovered on the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more cases :-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found	
	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (Sect.1) ...	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sect.6) ...	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (Sect.7) unsuitable or defective	2	2

RODENT CONTROL: East and West Wight

Five hundred and eighteen premises were treated during the year, the Rodent Operator making 1,400 visits, 1,043 of which were for routine inspections. The annual testing and treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out and the spraying of refuse tips. No infestations were found.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following amounts of unsound food were dealt with in the West Wight during the year :-

Canned meat	...	54 lbs.
" fruit	...	8 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1955

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year 1965	...	220
" " " found to be negative	... ..	214
" " " " " positive	... ..	-
" " " in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	6
" " void samples	... ..	-
